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Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

2011 DEC -6 A 11:14

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

DEC 6 2011

In the Matter of:

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WAVERLY

WA

99039

Post Office

State

ZIP Code

Docket No: A 2012-49

EVELYN HAINEVETTER

Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the WAVERLY post office. The Final Determination was posted OCT 5 2011.
(date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

See Attached

Evelyn R. Heinevetter
Waverly Town Council Member
Waverly Cemetery District Commissioner
P.O. Box 62
Waverly WA. 99039
November 31, 2011

Office of the Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington DC 20268

Assigned Docket No. A2012-49

Concerning Docket Number A2012-49 To Consider Petitioner's Appeal.

Number 1. The Postal Service failed to consider the effect of the closing on the community:

We as residents of Waverly, WA, 99039, (the second smallest **incorporated** town in the state of Washington,) and the surrounding wheat farming area, will be devastated if our Post Office is closed. We will loose our town's identity and possibly its zip code. Our Post Office is the Hub, Heart and Glue that holds our small community together. Rural America Post Offices have as much right to services as urban communities. Please remember that by closing Post Offices in rural farming areas the Postal Department is putting another burden on the people who raise the crops that feed our country. Rural America is who keeps food on our tables. The price to society of closing small rural Post Offices is very high, since without its Post Offices such rural communities do not survive. These Post Offices not only serve the small towns but also serve the neighboring farmers. The American farmers are having a difficult time now with the price of fuel and chemicals going up every day. When we loose our small towns and farmers in this great country, we loose America! Please rethink the closing of our Waverly Post Office. "The Founding Fathers" of our great country created the United States Postal Service with the intention of "binding the nation together.

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By attacking Americas Rural Post Offices, the United States Postal Service is **attacking the heartland of America**. Is this equal justice! **By merging urban Post Offices where people only have to drive short distances and stopping Saturday mail, you can keep our Rural Post Offices open.**

The Waverly Town Hall is only open two days per week for a limited time and most residents have no need to go into the Town Hall. There are no open storefront businesses in our town so there is no place available to place a Village Post Office. Our Post Office is the only place we have to notify persons daily of important information concerning citizens of the area. A bulletin board has been placed in the combined entryway to our Post Office and a private residence. Since everyone uses our Post Office daily this bulletin board is where our town posts all items pertaining to the town and surrounding area. The Town of Waverly uses this bulletin board to post important notices such as town meetings, ordinance changes, budget items, bids for projects, public hearings, legal notices and Etc. We also place items such as a cougar citing in town, beware of the moose that has taken up residency in town for the winter, suspicious persons sited around town, thus parents can advice their children of these serious problems. The Spokane Fire District # 12 located in Waverly posts all its information such as its meetings, legal notices, burn times and rules. The Waverly Cemetery District posts its meetings, legal notices and any information about a death and funeral notices in the area. The utility company posts planned outages there. All school related items are posted. Our small home businesses in the area post items. The local Food Bank posts its notices and open times. Even items such as someone in the area needing help, such as needing rides to the doctor to shoveling snow for the handicapped or elderly persons are posted there.

When the postal Department scheduled its first meeting with the town of Waverly, it did not consider approaching the Mayor and Town Council as to when it would be an appropriate time to schedule this meting. This meeting was scheduled at a very inconvenient time. The Postal Service had our Postmaster set this meeting up and told him what time to schedule it . The Postal Department did not consider that the date and time was an inconvenient time for the residents Waverly and the surrounding farming communities. This meeting was held on a weekday from 4 pm to 6 pm.

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This was planting time for the local farmers and this year, because of bad weather and they only had a small window of time to get the seed in as per government regulations, thus the surrounding farmers were unable to attend. Our schoolchildren were involved in after school activities and our parents, being very supportive of their children, were unable to attend. Persons that work and have an hour or more drive were unable to be there by 6 pm and the meeting was adjourned at exactly 6 pm. We were told that the Postal Employees had to meet an airplane to get back to Seattle thus the closing of the meeting at six sharp. After the fact, we were informed that they did not fly back to Seattle until the next day. The date and time should have been set up as to when all members of the community could attend. The Postal Department did not take in to consideration any of these facts. I feel this was lack of consideration on the part of the Postal Department personnel.

Our Postmaster Don Evans and his wife have been residents of Waverly for 28 years and raised two sons here. It is important to Don what happens in our town. Don is aware of who does not pick up their mail and always tries to find out if the family is OK. Where else but in a small Rural America would you find this kind of caring? The Post office, being on the main street and the only open business in town, gives Don the ability to see what goes on in town. Don has become the eyes of our town, as he is able to see what is happening on our main street. Our park lies near our Post Office and all of our children have been told if there is any problem **Run to the Post Office**, as this is the safest place in town. Our Postmaster also belongs to our volunteer fire department and is able to summons help immediately.

It seems that we cannot get an actual answer if the residents of Waverly would be able to keep our Postal Zip Code. One postal rule states yes and another postal rule says it is up to the Postal Department to decide. **The Town of Waverly needs to retain its zip code on all of town's residents, as this is how the government distributes its funds and The County Voters Resister Office uses the Zip code for its ballots...** In reply to my letter addressing our concern of loosing our zip code Katherine Nash's' reply to me in her letter dated July 25 2011 stated, "Tax revenue returned to the

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Town of Waverly should be addressed by the Washington State Department of Revenue"! I do not see how the Washington State Department of Revenue

could possibly be able to figure out who is a resident of Waverly without its Zip code.

If we do not retain our Zip code on all of our incorporated town's residents, the Town of Waverly will lose desperately needed funds. Our Town of Waverly has always lived within its means and has never operated in the red. Thus, we need to retain our Post Office and its Zip Code.

Another problem if we loose our Zip Code will be voting. This will become a problem for the County Register of Voters. **Voting in our County is now by mail, thus using the United States Postal Service.** Only persons residing our towns zip code get ballots for our incorporated town elections. If you rented a PO Box in Fairfield you would loose your Waverly Zip Code and the persons running for office in Waverly would not be on your ballot as your zip code would be Fairfield. This would cause much confusion. Having our ballots waiting for us inside of our Post Office adds to the security of our voting rights.

The following items appeared in the Docket # 1386705-99039 Proposal to Close the Waverly Washington Post office and I feel that they need to be mentioned.

Docket 1386705-99039 Proposal to Close the Waverly Post Office

Item # 6 page 1. Page 3 Side of home attached to adjoining post office space. Page 7 Side of building,

Page 8, Backside of building. Page 9, Back of building

Photos of the area behind the building and the home attached to the area the Postal Service rents have no concern to the post office. These photos were placed there just make the area look bad. Unprofessional on the part of the Post Office Department

Item # 13 page number 1

Does not list businesses and institutions.

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These are home businesses and institutions in Waverly that should have been listed:

Institutions

Waverly Town Hall -P.O. Box # 87
Masonic Lodge - P.O. Box # 135
Waverly Cemetery District- P.O. Box #241
Spokane Fire Department District # 12
Waverly Historical Preservation Society P.O. Box# 534

Home businesses

Renegade Unlimited- P.O. Box # 531
North Street Construction-P.O. # Box 43
Baitsmith- P.O. Box # 142
Golden Memories- P.O. Box # 239
Perennial Shop- P.O. P.O. Box # 75
Performance Painting- P.O. Box #9
Western Wood- P.O. Box # 7
Sundancer Graphics -P.O. Box 67

Item #16 page number 1

What is the graphic economical makeup of the community (e.g., retirees, commuters, Self employed, farmers)

This community is mostly comprised of retirees. There is no employment available in town. Those who commute for work travel approximately 28 miles to Spokane. There are no businesses in town.

This is incorrect as there are far more young families in town than retirees. It must have appeared to the Postal Service reps that attended the town meeting that most people were retirees as they were the only ones able to attend the meeting because of the poor timing of the meeting.

Item # 17 page number 2

Cost change. Number 3 This was due to a clerical error. The figures had to be recalculated.

How many more times will this have to be recalculated. I feel that the rent cost of the Post Office space being only \$350 dollars out of which the owner has to pay electricity, water, heat, shoveling snow, garbage and maintenance is very reasonable. The lease for our Post Office has been in effect for over

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4 years and nothing has been mentioned before that it did not meet the FMV. In addition, when they figured the space I believe they did not take into consideration the square footage of the pad on the side of the Post Office where the drop off and pick up is for the collection and return of new mail. This should have been added into the square footage. Why did it take the Postal Department until now to decide that the square footage did not meet their specks?

The last item I want to address from this docket is item number 38 pages 72, 72A, and 72 B which I have attached to this appeal. I feel the Postal employee who wrote the remark on page 72A CA 105841084 additional information, which states, “ **This is a duplicate letter from Ms. Heinevetter. The same letter is being sent to everyone she can think of. She’s opposing the closure of the Waverly PO.**” was out of line in making such a statement. I feel that this was uncalled for. I have a right as a citizen and postal customer to mail letters to anyone who might help us keep our Post Office open without United States Postal Personnel placing these types of remarks in their public document.

Rural Post Offices are as important as urban Post Offices. It would seem more reasonable to merge urban Post Offices where people only have a very short distance to drive to them and stop Saturday services to keep Rural Post Offices open.

#2. The Postal Service failed to consider whether or not it would continue to provide maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to the community.

I feel that the safety of our mail will be in jeopardy. Rural mailboxes are not safe. With having boxes inside the post office we feel that are mail is in a safe environment. The farmers in the area on rural routes come into Waverly to mail their items, as they do not trust mailing items in their rural boxes. Some even have rented boxes in our post office so they do not have to worry about their mail.

Closing our Post Office will put a financial and safety burden on the people

of the area. We will have to drive a twelve or more mile round trip to get services. In the winter, our roads become very treacherous with ice and snow. We can always walk to the post office and it seems as though the mail always gets into and out of the Waverly Post Office. If a rural route carrier finds a road bad, they will not drive on them (the rural roads are the last to be plowed) and will not deliver to boxes that are not cleared. In addition, if mailboxes are vandalized they will not deliver. With the price of everything going up thefts from rural mailboxes will rise. If cluster boxes are placed in the town who will maintain them? Who will shovel the 3 feet of snow away so the route carrier and patrons can get to them? Locks freeze in our area. Who will replace a broken key or lock and how long will it take? This would probably become the responsibility of the town thus placing another added cost to our town.

All of the of the following items would create a need to drive to the nearest post office, all over weight letters must be weighed, mailing packages, insured mail, certified letters, registered letters, money orders,(it is not safe to place money in a rural mailbox for a money orders or stamps) or a certified letter, signature conformation, insured parcels. In addition, to retrieve mail that was insured or certified. Obtaining any of the Postal Department priority supplies. At Christmas, time the roads are bad, that would mean over weight letters, etc would not get mailed.

3. The Postal Service failed to adequately consider the economic savings resulting the closure.

The cost of America's rural post office network has nothing to do with the financial condition the Postal Service finds itself. This is documented in the September 30, 2010 Postal Regulatory Commission decision.

It was also brought to my attention that by closing all rural post offices, the cost savings to the Postal Service would be less that 7/10^{ths} of one percent of its budget.

Closing our post office would bring home values down as most people who have moved here did so because we have the convenience of our Waverly Post Office.

Most rural communities do not survive when they loose their post office.

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I do not feel that our town should suffer losing its post office due to the lack of the postal services ability to keep to their budget in control. **Again, by merging urban post offices, where a person only has to drive short distance, closing on Saturdays and raising the price of stamps the Postal Service can keep our Rural Post Office open.**

When small rural towns fall by the wayside, it affects everyone including the county, state, federal government, and the Postal Service.

I cannot imagine that the postal department thinks they can deliver our mail to rural boxes for the same amount as the rent (\$350.00 per month) at the price of gasoline these days and it keeps going up every day. Our postmaster will be transferred and his salary will still be on the Postal Service books. Thus the only cost saving is the monthly rent.

4. There are factual errors contained in the Final Determination.

No 1.Responsiveness to community postal needs

CBUs are freestanding units of individually locked mail compartments installed and maintained by the Postal Service at no cost to the customer. A parcel locker may be installed.

A. We have problems with deep snowdrifts in this area. Does this mean that the Postal Service will remove the snow so the rural driver can get to the units?

B. We were told at the town meeting that a parcel box would be installed.

The postmaster position will become vacant when the postmaster is reassigned on April 01, 2012. Since the postmaster vacancy, an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hour's service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

This statement does not make any sense at all ! Our postmaster has not been reassigned (notice the year of reassignment 2012) and no OIC has been installed in our post office. Our hours have not changed. This statement very confusing!

The office was studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: Lease amount requested for renewal is above FMV.

Regular and effective postal services can be provided be nearby Fairfield Post Office.

A. The lease for our Post Office has been in effect for over 4 years and nothing has been mentioned before that it did not meet the FMV. In addition, when they figured the space I believe they did not take into consideration the square footage of the pad on the side of the Post Office where the drop off and pick up is for the collection and return of mail. This footage should have been added into the square footage. Why did it take the Postal Department 4 years to decide that the square footage did not meet their specks?

B. Yes services can be obtained at the Fairfield Post Office, but it is a 12-mile round trip or more for us to drive to the town Fairfield. This becomes an added expense and during the winter with roads icy and covered with snowdrifts, it is a safety concern. Many of us just do not drive when the roads are bad.

The following is a list of services we would not be able to obtain if our Post Office is closed. All over weight letters must be weighed, mailing packages, insured mail, certified letters, registered letters, money orders,(it is not safe to place money in a rural mailbox for a money orders or stamps) or a certified letter, signature conformation, insured parcels. In addition, retrieving mail that was insured or certified. Obtaining any of the Postal Department priority supplies. At Christmas time, the roads are bad and this would mean over weight letters, packages etc would not get mailed. All of these would require a 12 mile or more trip to Fairfield.

On May 18, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at the Waverly Fire Station 255 N Commercial St. to answer questions and provide information to customers. 38 customer(s) attended the meeting.

When the postal Department scheduled its first meeting with the town of Waverly, it did not consider approaching the Mayor and Town Council as to

when it would be an appropriate time to schedule this meeting. This meeting was scheduled at a very inconvenient time. The Postal Service had our Postmaster set this meeting up and told him what time to schedule it. The Postal Department did not consider that the date and time was an inconvenient time for the residents Waverly and the surrounding farming communities. This meeting was held on a weekday from 4 pm to 6 pm. This was planting time for the local farmers and this year, because of bad weather and they only had a small window of time to get the seed in the ground as per government regulations, thus the surrounding farmers were unable to attend. Our schoolchildren were involved in after school activities and our parents, being supportive of their children, were unable to attend. Persons that work and have an hour or more drive were unable to be there by 6 pm and the meeting was adjourned at exactly 6 pm. We were told that the

Postal Employees had to meet an airplane to get back to Seattle thus the closing of the meeting at six sharp. After the fact, we were informed that the Postal Personnel did not fly back to Seattle until the following day. The date and time should have been set up so all members of the community could attend. The Postal Department did not take in to consideration any of these facts. I feel this was lack of consideration on the part of the Postal Department personnel and I believe that there is a rule that states this meeting was to be held on a date and time most convenient to the Postal customers.

When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Fairfield Post Office, an EAS-13 level office. Window service hours at the Fairfield Post Office are from 0:800 -12:00/ 13:00-17:00, Monday through Friday, and on Saturday. There are 222 post office boxes available.

A. The Fairfield Post Office is not open on Saturday

B. The concerns of the Town of Waverly's Postal Customers were given clipped evasive and pre formed answers. I realize that the Postal Services time is valuable but to the residents of the Town of Waverly their question deserved answers that are more precise as to the possible closure of

The Waverly Post Office.

In closing, I want you to understand how deeply we feel about the possibility of losing our Waverly Post Office. Losing our Postmaster and our Post Office will be like having the funeral for an old friend. There will be many tears shed.

Waverly was a once thriving community with its large Washington State Sugar Beet Factory in the early 1900s. Population was around 900 in the early 1900s. A fire destroyed a large part of the town after the 1912 closing of the beet factory. Population went as low as 52 persons. The town has just issued permits for two new homes in town, and one more is getting ready to be issued. This shows that we are having growth in our town.

I feel an assumption was made, by the Postal Department by authorities who attended the town meeting that mostly retirees lived in town. As I previously stated the date and time were only convenient to those who are retired and not working. Young families love our rural setting are moving here to raise their families. We have more young families moving to this area all the time. We now have 110 persons living in Waverly and will have more when these new homes are finished.

If the Postal Department would have sat down with the Mayor and the Town Council before the town meeting, all of these matters could have been discussed. The Postal Department put us all on the defensive from the start because they did not have the consideration to contact the Mayor and the Town Council and make us aware that there was the possibility of closing our Post Office. The officials could have learned more about our community and we could have scheduled a date and time for the town meeting that could have worked for everyone.

Please Keep our Post Office Open

Evelyn Heinevetter

Waverly Town Councilperson

Commissioner for the Waverly Cemetery District

And Citizen of the Town Of Waverly 99039



BUCKET NO. 99039
M NO. 38
PAGE 72 DISTRICT MANAGER

Docket # A 2012-49



July 25, 2011

Evelyn Heinevetter
PO Box 62
Waverly WA 99039

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Waverly Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

You expressed a concern about having to travel to another Post Office for service. Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

Tax revenue returned to the Town of Waverly should be addressed by the Washington State Department of Revenue.

I realize with change there is always concern. However, we are confident that the alternate service in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Doreen Karoly at (206) 442-6171.

Sincerely,


Katherine Nash
District Manager

DOCKET NO. 99039
JQ-M NO. 38
AGE 72A

Docket # A 2012-49

Print CA105841084

CA105841084 Case and Customer Details

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Case | Customer |
| Case ID: CA105841084 | Customer Name: Heinevetter, Evelyn |
| Case Owner: KQG301 | Title: |
| Case Status: Resolved | Contact Preference: Letter |
| Date Created: 07/28/2011 | Phone Number: 509-283-4114 |
| Due Date: 08/11/2011 | E-Mail Address: |
| Source Code: Letter - PMG | Address: PO BOX 62, WAVERLY, WA 99039-0062 |
| Inquiry Type: Problem | |
| Category: Customer Service | |
| Involved: Support | |
| Detail: Community Issues | |
| Additional Detail: Other | |

CA105841084 Additional Information

Additional Information:

This is a duplicate letter from Ms. Heinevetter. The same letter is being sent to everyone she can think of. She's opposing the closure of Waverly PO.

CA105841084 Clarifying Questions

[no clarifying questions]

CA105841084 Notes

[no notes]

CA105841084 Messages

[no messages]

CA105841084 Attachments

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Date Attached: 7/28/11 | Heinevetter -- From HQ Filename: 7.27.11.pdf |
|------------------------|---|

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Date Attached: 7/28/11 | Filename: Heinevetter Sign 7.25.11.pdf |
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History of the Waverly Post Office

Our local post office has a lot of history to the area. The year 2011 will mark the 100th year of the closing of the Washington Sugar Beet Company, also called "The Waverly Sugar Beet Factory".

The Waverly post office was established in 1879 at the Thayer home, located one mile east of the current Town of Waverly. In Oct 1884 the post office was moved into the "Town of Waverly" to the Gimble General Store. This is the same building where the current post office is now located. In 1890, Isaac Huffman purchased the General store from Gimble and operated the post office. In 1897, the "Washington State Sugar Beet Factory" was built on the south of the creek from the town. Many new businesses and three hotels were established on that south side of the creek and this then became the hub of the town. This area was called "New Town". In 1904, William Smith established the post office in "New Town". The post office was located in different businesses on that side of the creek until the sugar beet factory was closed. In 1921, the post office was moved back to the other side of the creek where it was located in various homes and businesses.

In 1930, Olive Clizer established the post office in a building just across the street from the present post office. In 1956, James Stuart purchased the General Store and established the post office there. This is the current site of the post office. Don Evans purchased the store in February 1981, the post office has been located there, and Don Evans has been the Postmaster since that date.